

tremendous efforts, Midland, Texas is now home to the 2000-2001 Class 5A State Champions. I sincerely wish to congratulate the Midland High Bulldogs for bringing home a state baseball title.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable meeting on Thursday June 21, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 177, on Representative SLAUGHTER's amendment to increase funding for the NEA and the NEH. I am a strong supporter of both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and had I been present, I would have voted yea on this important amendment.

URGING RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on June 20, 2001 the House passed H. Res. 124 recognizing the importance of children in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of American Youth. This piece of legislation was adopted by a unanimous vote of 424-0. I commend the U.S. House of Representatives on passing the resolution and believe that we all share the desire to secure the safety and well being of all children in our great nation and abroad.

More than a decade ago, the largest group of world leaders ever convened for the World Summit for Children to discuss their responsibility to children. At the end of the World Summit, 71 heads of state and other world leaders signed the World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children. The standards and obligations adopted place children center stage in the quest for a just, respectful and peaceful society.

The leaders attending the summit also adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of precise, time-bound goals, including: Improving living conditions for children and their chances for survival by increasing access to health services; reducing the spread of preventable diseases; creating more opportunities for education; providing better sanitation and greater food supply; and protecting children in danger.

To date, 192 states have ratified or signed the convention. The convention was ratified more quickly and by more countries than any previous human rights agreement. Unfortunately, the United States is not among the 192 nations that have joined in this historical convention, and no other industrialized nation has failed to make this legal commitment to children.

As a Member of the United States Congress I am saddened and embarrassed that our great nation has not ratified this historical con-

vention. Our nation's children are our future. The Convention on the Rights of the Child embodies the very principles our country was founded upon and only enforces the rights afforded to all children born in our great nation of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

Ratification clearly signals a state's commitment to uphold standards of the convention and to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children around the world. The House of Representatives commitment to the well being of our nation's children is exemplified through the unanimous passage of H. Res. 124. I urge the United States Senate, which has the sole power to ratify treaties, to act soon on this important matter and stand up for the rights of children worldwide.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA BLITZER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer tribute to one of those persons who toil endlessly, without complaint, and generally in the background, but who make some of the largest and most important contributions to our lives: our staff. In particular, I rise today to congratulate and thank my long-time staffer, Donna Blitzer, who, after nearly 20 (I'm sure in her eyes) I-o-n-g years, has decided to explore other career opportunities. Ms. Blitzer is now the Director of Government and Community Relations for the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Donna began in my office when I was in the State Legislature, serving as one of my support staff. As I grew in elected office, she grew as staff and together we served as partners in many initiatives to improve and protect the quality of life on California's Central Coast which I represented then and continue to do so today. Throughout it all, Donna was my constant advisor and supporter, my advance and back up, my most loyal and trustworthy counsel. She was always there to put me back on track when my ideas de-railed, and to bring form to my vision. Most important, she protected my ethical and moral compass from ever going astray.

Mr. Speaker, we all have good staff. They are the heart and soul of our public selves as we reach out to our constituents. But sometimes there is one who just gives so much to so many that it deserves our special acknowledgment and praise. Donna Blitzer is such a person.

I will miss having her on my staff and at my side as I have for 20 years. But I wish her well in her new job and know that her contribution to the public will still be appreciated, no matter where she finds herself.

MAYOR REMEMBERED

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my deepest sympathy to the people of West Texas for the loss of Odessa Mayor Bill Hext.

Bill was a selfless leader, a visionary, and a faithful statesman. Bill personified service and will be remembered for his relentless pursuit of improving the lives of the people of Odessa. Prior to being elected mayor in 2000, Hext had served as a City Council member since 1998, and continued his work in public service as a member of many civic and charitable organizations. Bill's commitment to serving his community and his influence on Odessans will be an inspiration for generations to come.

It is with great empathy that I salute Bill Hext as an outstanding individual and faithful mayor to the city of Odessa. He will forever hold a place of honor and respect in the pages of community service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes: 182-185, during the consideration of the Interior Appropriations Act. Please let the record show that had I been present I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 182, the Inslee amendment to uphold current regulations on hardrock mining; "no" for rollcall vote 183, the Deutsch amendment regarding historic campsites in Stiltville, Florida; "no" for rollcall vote 184, the Stearns amendment to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts; and "yes" for rollcall vote 185, final passage.

I strongly support the final passage of H.R. 2217, the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act FY 2002. I am extremely pleased that this bill honors our commitment to the environment. The expansion of funding for land acquisition, wildlife protection, and other preservation and conservation programs is a victory for the country.

A SALUTE TO DR. EDWARD TYSON HONORING HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA'S STUDENTS

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edward Tyson of Kannapolis, North Carolina for his years of service to the parents, students and educators of Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

Dr. Tyson has been the Superintendent for Kannapolis City School since 1992. He has also served as a teacher, principal, and associate superintendent in the Cabarrus County School System.

Dr. Tyson has made a positive and profound impact on the students and faculty of Kannapolis City and Cabarrus County Schools. He has worked hard to improve the opportunities for all students throughout Cabarrus and Rowan Counties.

Dr. Tyson has been a tremendous leader in our community, serving on the Board of Directors for Cabarrus Bank, the Salvation Army, Cannon Memorial YMCA, and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences. He has also represented North Carolina on education issues